REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The pending claims are 1, 2 and 9. Claims 1, 2 and 9 are currently amended. Claim 9 is withdrawn. Claims 5-8 are newly cancelled, without prejudice.

The amendment to the concentration of pigment in claims 1 and 9 is supported in previous claims 7 and 8 (now cancelled).

The "crosslinked acrylic" amendment to the resin fine particles of claim 1 is supported in paragraph [0022] of the specification.

An editorial change has also been made to claim 2.

No new matter is added.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Retzlaff et al. (U.S. 2003/0150729) in view of Hunakoshi et al. (U.S. 6,054,033).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The present invention is directed to a cationic electrodeposition coating composition comprising a cationic epoxy resin, a blocked isocyanate curing agent, a pigment, and crosslinked acrylic resin fine particles. The resin fine particles have an average particle size of 1 to 8 μm, and are present at 3 to 15% by weight based on the solid contents of the coating composition. The concentration of pigment is 0.2 to 5% by weight based on the solid contents of the coating composition.

Claim 1 of Retzlaff et al. mentions that the cationic electrodeposition coating composition comprises solid particulate polyacrylate, a solid particulate aliphatic polyurethane/polyurea copolymer, or a mixture thereof. Retzlaff et al., however, does not disclose or suggest crosslinked solid particulate polyacrylate.

Furthermore, as discussed in the Amendment filed June 16, 2008, Retzlaff et al. does not disclose the cationic electrodeposition coating compositions of claim 1. The working examples

of Retzlaff et al. are shown in Exhibit 1, Table A, attached to the previous response. As shown in Exhibit 1, Retzlaff et al. does not disclose a composition which corresponds to claim 1 of the present application. In particular, Retzlaff et al. does not disclose or suggest crosslinked acrylic resin fine particles with the recited average particle size of 1 to 8 μm in a proportion of 3 to 15% by weight based on the solid contents of the coating composition.

The solid particulate polymers of Retzlaff et al. are added to reduce the gloss of the electrodeposited coating composition, and to provide anti-settling properties to the composition. See paragraphs [0029] and [0030] of Retzlaff et al.

In the present invention, the electrodeposition coating composition has good cissing (i.e., oil contaminated cissing) preventing properties, which are obtained by adding crosslinked acrylic resin fine particles which have an average particle size of 1 to 8 μm in a proportion of 3 to 15% by weight based on the solid contents of the coating composition. See claim 1.

Retzlaff et al. does not disclose or suggest a composition that improves the "cissing-preventing property" of an electrodeposition coating composition. See e.g., paragraphs [0018], [0028] and [0103] to [0107] of the present specification. In contrast to the compositions of Retzlaff et al., the electrodeposition coating compositions of the present invention have good oil contaminated cissing-preventing properties. This is primarily due to the presently recited crosslinked acrylic resin fine particles having an average particle size of 1 to 8 μm in a proportion of 3 to 15% by weight based on the solid contents of the coating composition.

Accordingly, the present invention and the invention of Retzlaff et al. have different objects from each other. The present invention improves cissing, but Retzlaff et al. improves reduction of gloss and anti-settling. Retzlaff et al. therefore does not suggest the compositions of the present invention.

Hunakoshi et al. discloses a cathodic electrodeposition paint composition which contains resin particles having a particulate size of less than 1 μm. See claim 1. Hunakoshi et al. mentions in column 1, lines 9 to 32, that appearance defects upon curing when forming electrodeposited coating are (i) craters induced by oil droplets, and (ii) "stripe-like recesses" appearing locally on the cured paint films as waves of stripe-like surface irregularities. In

Hunakoshi et al., these defects are improved by adding resin particles having a particle size of less than 1 μm, which is smaller than Applicants' recited particle size.

As discussed in the last response, Hunakoshi et al. discloses a number of working examples of resin particles. See production examples 8 and 9. The particle sizes of the resin particles are 78 nm (column 8, line 16), and 120 nm (column 9, line 30). Therefore the particle sizes disclosed by Hunakoshi et al. are not within Applicants' recite range of 1-8 μm.

Furthermore, the object of the present invention is clearly different from that of the invention of Hunakoshi et al. Hunakoshi et al. improves craters and stripe-like recesses on the electrodeposited coating, and the present invention improves cissing on the electrodeposited coating.

The object of the invention of Hunakoshi et al. is also clearly different from that of the invention of Retzlaff et al. because Hunakoshi et al. improves craters and stripe-like recesses occurring on the electrodeposited coating, but Retzlaff et al. improves reduction of gloss and anti-settling. Thus, there is therefore no motivation for combining Retzlaff et al. with Hunakoshi et al.

Accordingly, Retzlaff et al. in view of Hunakoshi et al. do not disclose or suggest all of the features of the compositions of the present claims. The rejection over Retzlaff et al. in view of Hunakoshi et al. should therefore be withdrawn.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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